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## TABOO WORDS FOUND IN *CRANK 2: HIGH VOLTAGE*

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### ABSTRACT

Taboo words are a proscription of behaviour which affects people's social life. The words and expressions classified as taboo are commonly used to describe sex, our bodies and their functions, and also to insult other people. This article analyzes the kinds and the functions of taboo words found in *Crank 2: High Voltage* movie. The method used in this research is qualitative research. To analyze the problems of this research, it is applied the theory of taboo words by Jay and the functions of taboo by Wardaugh. From the analysis, it is found seven kinds of taboo word occurred in the movie. They are profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, slang, epithets, insult and slurs, and scatology. Furthermore, the function analysis found in this research includes: to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority.

**Keywords:** *taboo words, kinds, Crank 2 movie*

### INTRODUCTION

The existence of the language cannot be separated from people's social life. As a means of communication, language has some functions. Generally, It is used to convey the message or express the idea or thoughts containing information, both in the conversation or written text. On the other hand, the language can be divided into two parts. They are formal and informal.

The formal form of Standard English can be found in formal text like newspaper, business letter, or discourse. It also can be found in formal conversation like in a seminar, debate, presentation, and so on. On the other hand, the informal form is mostly used in daily conversation and it is also called as *colloquialism* (Inderajati & Ubaidillah, 2016).

Taboo word is part of non-standard language as well known as informal. According to Wardaugh, taboo is prohibition in any society of behavior which is believed to be harmful to its member in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame. In certain societies, taboo word is used in some circumstances that refer to the act that are forbidden or to be avoided (Wardaugh, 2006). Words relating to sex, sex organs, religious connotation and others are often used



by many people to vent strong emotion. These certain words are considered Taboo.

The uses of taboo in daily conversation are varied and closely related to the acts that are prohibited or avoided to do. For example, a word carried religious connotation or offending the God, holy book and else are considered taboo if it is used outside the ceremonies. Especially for people with Asian culture who are not permitted to use taboo word in daily conversation.

Moreover, the existence of taboo word can be found in various sources such as in a movie. Movie is one of the popular entertainments for most people. The existence of taboo in the movie is caused by one of the facts that the characters need to express a strong feeling and emotion. Furthermore, It is uttered to show anger, frustration, express friendliness, familiarity, etc, for instance, the utterance "*hey you cunt*". The word *cunt* means "friend". It is used to show familiarity and usually uttered by a person or people to call their close friend or their close family member. On the other hand, the word *cuntis* also classified as a derogatory term for a woman in other circumstances.

## METHOD

The qualitative method was used to conduct this research. The type of this research was a library research which analyzes the text. The data sources of this research were taken from *Crank 2: High Voltage* movie script (Anonymous, 2003). It is an American crime film, which center on an brutal gang war members of ChevChelios to take back his heart which were stolen by the Chinese TRIAD gang and fight with Mexican gang member, EL Huron., and various other media portraying the characters and situations from the films. The movie considered suitable to be the source of this study because the characters in this movie provides plenty of taboo words.

There are some steps used in collecting the data. The first step was watching the movie. The second was collecting the expressions or words considered taboo. After collecting the data, all data were classified based on the types which made the process easier. After finding the data, I underlined words including the taboo words. Finally, they were analyzed descriptively based on the theories to find out their forms and the social functions. In presenting the data, the writer used the informal method. There are some theories which are suitable to the topic of discussion. The first one is taboo words theory which is submitted by Timothy Jay (1992). Besides, this research is also supported by other theory used to analyze the functions. It is from sociolinguistics theory proposed by Wardhaugh (2006).

## DISCUSSION

Allan and Burridge state that taboo normally arise out of social constraint on the individual behaviour (Allan & Burridge, 2006). Taboo words are restricted on both institutional and individual levels under the assumption that some harm will occur if a word is spoken. According to Jay Taboo word is a part of informal language. Taboo word produces disgust, embracement, and violate social norms in the society concerned. As has been mentioned above, this research analyzes the taboo words occurred in the *Crank 2: High Voltage* movie script based on the types and function of each word. The further discussions can be seen as follows.



### **The Taboo WordKinds Found in Crank 2 High Voltage**

Fromkin explains that each society has its taboo words. Words relating to sex, sex organs, religious connotation and other activity that forbidden in society are considered taboo (Fromkin & Rodman, 1988).

Taboo words found in the *Crank 2: High Voltage* movie have been classified into ten types of taboo words based on the Jay's classifications of taboo words. Jay classified taboo words into ten, which are: Cursing, Profanity, Blasphemy, Taboo, Obscenity, Vulgarity, Slang, Epithets, Insults and Slurs, and Scatology (Jay, 1992). Based on the data collection, the Taboo types words found in the movie are: profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, slang, epithets, insult and slurs and scatology. The further discussions will be presented in the following discussion.

#### **1 Profanity**

Profanity means to be ignorant of the words in religious belief for a religious taboo. Profane are usually used to feeling of disbelief. Below are the examples:

1) (00:11:15,523)

CHELIOS : Hello. Doc Miles.

: Yeah... Doc, it's Chev.

DOC MILES : *Jesus H... Chelios!*

: You've gotta be kiddin' me.

2) (00:11:49,858)

CHELIOS : I'm on it

DOC MILES : Okay, you're on it.

CHELIOS : Doc! *Jesus fucking Christ*

DOC MILES : I'm-I'm sorry.

3) (00:18:40,401)

RIA : Hey, dude why you in rush?

: Wait for me!

DRIVER : *Goddamn!*

: Get out off me

CHELIOS : Get out of the fucking car!

In example (1) the profane word is uttered by character Doc Miles, the specialist doctor of Chelios. The expression above belongs to profanity since it shows the ignorance of the character in the movie by using words related to religious belief. It could be seen on the data (1) that character Doc Miles uses the expression of religious belief *Jesus H...* to express his feeling of disbelief to the situation when Chelios calls Doc Miles, he knows that Chelios has died 3 months ago because of helicopter accident, and now he is shocked of this situation.

The profane words *Jesus fucking Christ* uttered by Chelios in example (2) shows the ignorance directed to Doc Miles. He feels angry because Doc Miles does not give specifically respond to Chelios, The utterance uttered by Chelios is classified as Profanity because the words *Jesus fucking Christ* contains religious belief.



Based on the data in example (3), the profanity expression *goddamn* is uttered by the driver to express his anger feeling toward Chelios. As can be seen from the data above, when the driver drives his car, Chelios is trying to steal his car. This situation annoys the driver. And this is why the driver launches the cursing *goddamn* to express his anger feeling and frustration to Chelios in order to stop trying to steal his car.

## 2. Obscenity

The meaning of the word obscene is same as indecent. It is considered to be offensive and repulsive word ever used. This kind of expression is not necessarily used because of the indecency. It is too rude to say in the public. The followings are some obscenity expressions found in the movie

4) (00:11,20,829)

DOC MILES	: Jesus H... Chelios!
	: You've gotta be kiddin me.
CHELIOS	: Listen, I'm deadly fuckin serious, Doc.
	: These Triad <i>motherfuckers</i> cut out my fuckin heart
	: And put in one of those plastic artificial jobs.
DOC MILES	: You got an artificial heart?
CHELIOS	: Do you think I'm having a fuckin laugh?

5) (00:31:09,449)

PORN STAR	: They need their money
DEMONSTRATOR (man )	: What do you want me to fuck this car?
DEMONSTRATOR ( girl )	: Suck my <i>fuckintits</i> !
CHELIOS	: Get off the car

6) (00:29:52,339)

DOC MILES	: I'm reasonably sure I can put it back in for you.
CHELIOS	: Okay, Doc
	: I'll be in touch when I find that Chinese
	<i>Cocksucker</i> that got me pump
DOC MILES	: Chinese?
	: Hey, chocolate would you get off your fat ass
	and get dressed?

In example (4) the obscene is uttered by the main character Chelios. He launches the offensive obscene word *motherfucker* to the Triad gangsters. Here, it can be seen on the scene that he feels anger to the Triad gangster because they cut out his heart and changed it with an artificial heart (heart with battery power). The word *motherfucker* is considered obscene or indecent because it means a guy who likes to have sexual activity with his mother. This word is categorized as obscenity because it is offensive and repulsive.

The words *fuckin tits* in example (5) was uttered by female demonstrators in the crowd when Chelios and his girlfriend crossed into crowd of demonstrators. The meaning of the word *tits* is a female breast. Again, this kind of word is considered obscene or indecent because the meaning of the word should not in public.

Similar to example (4), the word *cocksucker* in example (6) is uttered by



the main character, Chelios, referring to the gangsters who steal his heart and change it by artificial heart or a electric heart and make him dying. This word is launched by Chelios when he had a conversation with Doc Miles. *Cocksucker* is pointedly sexual in nature because it means a guy who likes to lick and suck male's sex organs.

### 3. Vulgarity

It is a common language frequently used by unsophisticated person on the street. It usually is used to show the crudeness of the person that launched this vulgar word. Vulgar does not necessarily bad or evil or obscene. Vulgarity has a low class of basic meaning and is not refined in certain place. This word is used by person to offend someone. Some expressions included vulgarity found in this movie are:

7) (00:32:16,149)

DOG WALKER	: See? Way better than a cat man
	: Whatever
DOG WALKER 2	: Who is this fuckin <i>asshole</i> ?
CHELIOS	: You pair of sausage nigels
	: How do you sleep at night?
DOG WALKER	: Who is this guy?
CHELIOS	: I'm from PETA

8) (00:30:05,485)

DOC MILES	: Chinese?
	: Hey chocolate would you get off your fat <i>ass</i> and get dressed.
CHOCOLATE	: Why?
DOC MILES	: Is Doc Miles gonna have to choke a bitch?

The example (7) is a conversation between the dog walker 1 and 2. The word *asshole* uttered by the Dog Walker 2 refers to Chelios who come after him in a panic situation. This expression is appropriate with the characteristic of vulgarity because the word *asshole* is used to offend the addressee and show the crudeness of the situation.

Meanwhile, in example (2) Doc miles launches the word *ass* to offend his girlfriend chocolate who is lazy and asks why she should get dressed when Doc miles told her so. Based on the situation, the word *ass* is a common word in their community because Doc and Chocolate have a close relationship.

### 4. Slang

Slang is a vocabulary which is developed and can be found in certain sub-group (teenager, musicians, soldiers, drug users, or athletes) for ease communication (Permadi, 2017). It is used to identify the member of the group and commonly found in spoken also not suitable for formal situation. The examles can be seen as follows:

9) (00:54:51,036)

ORLANDO	: Hey, by the way, man, we was all of us broken up about what happened to your brother,man
ORLANDO	: You okay?



VENUS : Orlando, I need your help  
 ORLANDO : Venus, come on  
 : You know you my *nigger*, you can't get no bigger. L.A.  
 underground  
 : We're like a family man. You—

10) (00:22:59,827)

EVE : Who the fuck is that?  
 CHELIOS : Ah, some *whore*  
 : Fuck, no  
 : That was a mistake  
 : Oh, fuck  
 : Look she's helpin me find my heart.

The setting of the scene in the example (9) is in the telephone call. The conversation of this scene is between Venus and Orlando. Venus calls Orlando to ask for a help to look for a man named El Huron, and Orlando says that, Venus is his *nigger*. The word *nigger* uttered by male character Orlando refers to a black man. The word *nigger* (or *nigga*) means a group or race of black skinned person. It is very informal word and more common in spoken language

The word *whore* in example (10) is uttered by the main character Chelios to Eve. The setting of the scene was inside Cypres Social Club when Chelios meets his girlfriend with Ria. When Chelios is having a conversation with Eve, Ria comes and Eve asks who that woman is to Chelios. And Chelios says that woman is *awhore*. The word *whore* literally means a prostitute woman or porn actor. This word is used by the main character referring to his friend, Ria. In this case the word *whore* is a common expression to their community.

## 5. Epithets

This type is powerful but burst of emotional language. Epithets are usually uttered when people are feeling frustration. For instance is when somebody's hand gets hit by a hammer or when joking. Here are the examples:

11) (00:08:33,495)

CHELIOS : What I need from you is directions.  
 : Oh, *shit*.  
 MEXICAN GUY : Damn, dog. are you good esse?  
 CHELIOS : Tiger fuckin woods  
 : Never better. Greatest day of my fuckin life.

12) (00:18:40,401)

DRIVER : *Goddamn*  
 : Get out off me  
 CHELIOS : Get out of the car!

In example (11), it can be seen that the word *shit* is launched by the main character Chelios. It happens when his car is crashed, and makes him fling away and fall out on the street. The word *shit* means something worthless; rubbish; nonsense (Battistella, 2005). This word was uttered by the main character Chelios to show his burst emotional feeling. He is angry and dissatisfied in this situation.



The expression of epithets in example (12) was uttered by the driver when his car is about to be hijacked by Chelios. He launches the word *goddamn* because he feels really angry and upset in this situation. The driver feels shocked when Chelios opens his car and tries to pull him out of his own car.

## 6. Insult and Slurs

Insult and slurs are kind of word used to harm another person by the word alone. They do not gain power from religious or social cohesion. They get it by denoting real or imagined characteristic of target directly. Slurs are categorized as the facial, ethnic, social in nature kind of taboo word, while insult may denote the physical, mental or psychological qualities of the target. These kinds of taboos can be used to hurt somebody or people directly through the particular word or expression. Some insult and slur may use animal imagery also some are based on social deviations. Here are the examples:

13) (00:28:53,580)

FEMALE PORN STAR	: Do you gonna put Johny Vang on ice?
CHELIOS	: Maybe
FEMALE PORN STAR	: That's so fuckin sexy
EVE	: Didn't they cuff you?
	: Damn it. Do me
FEMALE PORN STAR	: I'll do you
EVE	: <i>Bitch</i>

14) (00:25:12,393)

CHELIOS	: Who do you work for and what the do they want with me?
MEXICAN GANGSTER	: El Huron
CHELIOS	: English! What's a fuckin 'El who done?
MEXICAN GANGSTER	: it's a ferret.
	: He wants you alive. So he can watch you die
CHELIOS	: Oh, yeah? Why?
MEXICAN GANGSTER	: I don't know. Doesn't everybody?
CHELIOS	: Shut up. Oo, you lucky <i>bastard</i>

As can be seen in example (13), Eve launches the word *bitch* to denote the target animal imagery based on social deviations. The word *bitch*, literally means a female dog, an offensive way of referring to a woman, especially an unpleasant one (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, 2018). It is a rude way of saying 'whore' or a woman who has bad habit in dating or having sex with many men (Mahayana, 2017).

In example (2), the setting of this scene takes place inside Cypres Social Club. The main character Chelios had a gun fight with the Mexican gangster, when he defeated the Mexican gangster, the main character Chelios has a conversation with a dying Mexican gangster member. After the conversation, he is about to kill the Mexican gangster member. When his gun is out of ammo, Chelios says *you lucky bastard* to him. The word *bastard* literally means a son of a bitch, natural child, or the boy who born from prostitute mother (Battistella, 2005).

## 7. Scatology



Scatology is more oftenly used by children than adults. It refers to human waste product and bodily function, such as *poo, kaka, crap, shit, shit ass, iss, pee, fart, piss off*, etc (Pardo, 2015). Americans have great penchant for coining childish terms rather than using standardized terms or those like scientific origin (Permadi, 2017). Some say only the vulgar would be scatological terms, when a move refined euphemism or technical term could be substituted. Based on the data collection, there is only one expression classified as scatology found in the movie. It can be seen in the following example:

15) (00:12:00,935)

DOC MILES : Does-does- let me-does that thing have a a-a-a a belt  
Battery pack?

CHELIOS : Check

DOC MILES : How many bars are showing?

CHELIOS : One

DOC MILES : *Shit*. That's better than none, I guess.

The setting of this scene in the example above is on telephone call. The main character Chelios is talking to Doc miles about his trouble with an artificial heart. The artificial heart is designed to keep someone alive more than a couple days while the patient waiting for a transplant. The word *shit* above is uttered by Doc Miles. He feels upset about the battery bars. This word is used to describe [fecal matter](#), anything conceivable, from nouns to [emotions](#) (Reezie, 2009).

## Function of Taboo Words in Crank 2: High Voltage

The taboo words found in Crank 2: High Voltage movie were classified based on the function by Wardaugh. He stated that taboo words are disregarded in particular occasion because they have several function such as to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and mock authority (Wardaugh, 2006). From the data collection, taboo words which are appropriate with the function will be presented as follows.

### 1. To Draw Attention to One self

By using the strong, emotional, and powerful language, people can attract some reaction from the listeners or audience. Taboo words can also be uttered to catch an attention from the addressee. This function occurred two times of which it belongs to profanity. below are the example of taboo words which function to draw attention to oneself that occurred in the Crank 2: High Voltage.

1) (00:13:12,904)

CHELIOS : Shit

MEXICAN GUY : *Damn*, dog you good ese?

CHELIOS : Tiger fuckin woods

: Never better. Greatest day of my fuckin life.

2) (00:11:49,858)

CHELIOS : I'm on it

DOC MILES : Okay, you're on it.

CHELIOS : Doc! *Jesus fucking Christ*

DOC MILES : I'm-I'm sorry.

In example (1) the word *damn* is uttered by the Mexican guy in order to get





fast response or in other word to draw Chelios' attention. On this scene, it can be seen that the speaker tries to get a clarification about what he has seen. This conversation takes place in the Mexican guy's car. The Mexican guys tries to ask-Chelios about his condition after having a car accident. This is why he launches the taboo words according to the function to attract other's attention.

The profanity *jessus fucking Christ* in the example (2) was uttered by the main character Chelios in order to get a fast response or in other word to catch attention from Doc Miles. Chelios tries to get a clarification about what he felt because Doc Miles explains about the artificial heart slowly. In the dialogue, Chelios uses the strong language towards Doc Miles because it seems that they have a close relationship.

## 2. To Show Contempt

To show contempt means the impression in which a person or may be something is totally useless and cannot be regarded. Taboo word is used to show contempt by some speaker in order to insult or offend the pride of the addressee. Based on the data collection, it is found that this function occurred twice of which the types belong to vulgarity and insult and slurs.

3) (00:32:16,149)

DOG WALKER : See? Way better than a cat, man  
: Whatever  
DOG WALKER 2 : Who is this fuckin *asshole*?  
CHELIOS : You pair of sausage nigels  
: How do you sleep at night?  
DOG WALKER : Who is this guy?  
CHELIOS : I'm from PETA

4) (00:25:12,393)

CHELIOS : Who do you work for and what the  
do they want with me?  
MEXICAN GANGSTER : El Huron  
CHELIOS : English! What's a fuckin 'El who done?  
MEXICAN GANGSTER : it's a ferret.  
: He wants you alive. So he can watch you die  
CHELIOS : Oh, yeah? Why?  
MEXICAN GANGSTER : I don't know. Doesn't everybody?  
CHELIOS : Shut up. Oo, you lucky *bastard*

In the conversation in example (3), it can be clearly seen that the speaker (Dog walker 2) feels upset and annoyed when the unknown person (Chelios) is coming to him. Then, he launches the word *asshole* to despise Chelios' pride. The word *asshole* means a stupid, annoying, or detestable person (Anonymous, 1828a, 2002).

Meanwhile, In example (4) the word *bastard* refers to the Mexican Gangster. This word is uttered upon the frustration because the Mexican gangster talked too much. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, *bastard* means an [illegitimate](#) child or an offensive or disagreeable person —used as a generalized term of abuse (Anonymous, 1828b). The insult and slur *bastard* in this example is used by the speaker show his contempt towardsthe addressee.



### 3 To Be Provocative

To be provocative means causing anger or another strong reaction. Taboo word is uttered to provoke hearer's anger or intent on getting certain response like violation or anger from others. Taboo words can be successful if the response is suitable with the speaker's expectation (Anggita, 2015). The followings are the examples of taboo words which function to be provocative in the conversation.

5) (00:32:16,149)

DOG WALKER	: See? Way better than a cat man
	: Whatever
DOG WALKER 2	: Who is this <i>fuckin asshole</i> ?
CHELIOS	: You pair of sausage nigels
	: How do you sleep at night?
DOG WALKER	: Who is this guy?
CHELIOS	: I'm from PETA

6) (00:31:09,449)

DEMONSTRATOR (girl)	: Pay my fuckin wages, mother fuckers
DEMONSTRATOR (man)	: Droppin loads on all of your silly wages!
PORN STAR	: They need their money
DEMONSTRATOR (man )	: What do you want me to fuck this car?
DEMONSTRATOR ( girl )	: <i>Suck my fuckin tits!</i>
CHELIOS	: Get off the car

In example (5) it can be seen that the words *fuckin asshole* uttered by the Dog walker 2 refer to Chelios. The expression above shows that the speaker launches the words *fuckin asshole* to Chelios to provoke his anger. And he successfully made the main character, Chelios is angry and says they are *pair of sausage nigels*.

Similar to the previous example, the italic word *suck my fuckin tits* in the data (6) are clearly uttered to provoke Chelios's anger. The word *tits* means A female's breast's used to produce milk and sexual pleasure men or women (Dictionary, 2017). This conversation takes place on the street with a crowd of demonstrators. When the demonstrators are arguing with Chelios, one of the demonstrators launches the word *suck my fuckin tits* to Chelios. After directing the taboo words to him, Chelios responds the demonstrator's provocation by forcing them to get out of their car.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and data discussions, there are some points that can be concluded according to the topic of discussions. Analyzing the taboo word kinds found in the Crank 2: High Voltage movie becomes the first purpose of this research. Based on the data collection, seven kinds of taboo words were occurred in the movie. They are profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, slang, epithets, insult and slurs, and scatology.

Furthermore, from the function, there are only three functions of taboo words found in the research: to draw attention to one self, to show contempt, and to be provocative. To mock authority function was not found in the movie because this movie is not related to a behaviour to tease or jest a person or organi-



zation having political or administrative power and control, such as government school, or other institution in public.

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